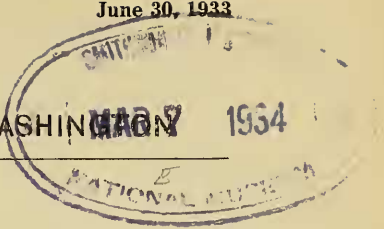


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONGEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN THE YELLOW-BILLED
SHRIKE, *CORVINELLA CORVINA*.BY HERBERT FRIEDMANN¹ AND W. WEDGWOOD BOWEN.

In 1900 (Journ. f. Ornith., p. 263) Neumann described a western race of this bird as *Corvinella corvina togoensis*, using as his comparative material birds from Senegambia and Kavirondo. The latter he assumed to be true *C. c. affinis* Hartlaub, the type locality of which is Nubia. Neumann apparently had no topotypical *affinis*, which is not surprising as the species is not known from Nubia proper. Heuglin (Sitzungs. Kais. Akad. Wissensch. Wien., 19, 1856, 286), whose first use of the name *affinis* was validated by Hartlaub the next year, merely says that the bird is abundant on the Bahr el Abiad (White Nile) south of 7° N. Latitude.

Before discussing the variations of this shrike in the eastern part of its range, mention may be made of the name *C. c. nubiae* Filippi. This name, referred to by several authors, we have been unable to trace, all references found being erroneous. If found, it may have to replace *affinis*. Recent study of material from Kavirondo, Uganda, northeastern Uelle district, Belgian Congo, and the Sudan (Bahr el Ghazal, Mongalla, and southern Darfur provinces) shows that the Kavirondo birds are not *affinis*, but belong to a distinct, unnamed race. Furthermore, the birds of the southern Bahr el Ghazal are again distinct. These may be described as follows:

***Corvinella corvina chapini*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., no. 97846, adult female, collected at Kibigori, Kavirondo, August 21, 1918, by A. Blayney Percival.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *C. c. affinis* from Bahr el Jebel and southern Darfur, but slightly darker and more heavily streaked above and below, and with the rufescent area in the primaries more restricted basally (distance from distal end of rufescent area to tip of fourth primary averaging 50.8 mm. in a series of *chapini* from Kavirondo as against 43 mm., in a series of *C. c. affinis*).

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Distribution. Kavirondo and Elgon district through Uganda (Rhino Camp) to the northeastern Belgian Congo (Vankerckhovenville and Garamba).

We take pleasure in naming this race in honor of Dr. James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Corvinella corvina caliginosa, subsp. nov.

Type.—Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., no. 104553, adult male, collected at Rangu, southern Bahr el Ghazal, April 16, 1931, by Dr. H. Woodman.

Subspecific characters.—The grayest of all the races and the most heavily streaked above and below; in the character of the rufescent wing area intermediate between *affinis* and *chapini* (the distance from distal end of rufescent area to tip of fourth primary averaging 47.5 mm.); tail very long (188.5–191 mm., as against 174–175 mm. in *affinis* and 175–177 mm. in *chapini* (one specimen from Garamba approaching *caliginosa*, with a tail of 187.5 mm.).

Distribution.—Known only from the Yambio district, southern Bahr el Ghazal.

The races of this species, then, are as follows:

1. *Corvinella c. corvina* Shaw.

Senegal and Gambia east to Hausaland, northern N. Nigeria.

Material examined.—Senegal, 2 (U. S. Nat. Mus.); 1 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); Gambia, 1 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.); "W. Africa," 1 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.).

2. *Corvinella c. togoensis* Neumann.

Portuguese Guinea to the Basso Mts., Cameroon, and to N. Nigeria. Selater (Syst. Av. Aethiop., pt. 2, 1930, p. 615) considers this form to be doubtfully distinct from typical *corvina*. The single specimen seen by us is insufficient to enable us to express an opinion.

Material examined.—Kati, French Sudan, 1 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.).

3. *Corvinella c. affinis* Hartlaub.

Upper Nile district through northern Bahr el Ghazal to central Kordofan and Darfur.

Material examined.—Logos, Bahr el Jebel, 1 (U. S. Nat. Mus.); southern Darfur, 3 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.).

4. *Corvinella c. chapini*.

Range as stated above.

Material examined.—Kavirondo, 6 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.); Uganda, 2 (U. S. Nat. Mus.); northeastern Belgian Congo, 12 (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.).

5. *Corvinella c. caliginosa*.

Range as stated above.

Material examined.—Southern Bahr el Ghazal, 3 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.).

We are much indebted to the officials of the American Museum of Natural History and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for the loan of specimens.